

MINI LESSON



Narratives (making connections)

WRITING ABOUT FAMILY	<p>Reading texts with similar themes allows students to make text to text connections; to compare and contrast characters, settings, plots, and ideas; and to generate writing ideas through common experiences.</p> <p>Family stories, traditions and histories are wonderful examples of how to pull what you know into your writing. Teach children to listen to stories passed along through oral tradition and put those stories on paper. Help children to realize the writing potential of all of the stories that they want to tell about in class.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Keepers</u> by Jeri Hanel Watts and Felicia Marshall (grandparents; recording memories)• <u>Night Tree</u> by Eve Bunting (family tradition)• <u>My Great-Aunt Arizona</u> by Gloria Houston (recording family history)• <u>Love You Forever</u> by Robert Munsch (mother's love) <i>*heart sticker</i>• <u>My Grandpa and the Sea</u> by Katherine Orr (grandparents) <i>*small seashell</i>• <u>My Ol' Man</u> by Patricia Polacco (father)• <u>Abuela</u> by Arthur Doros• <u>Aunt Flossie's Hats</u> by Elizabeth Howard
WRITING ABOUT FRIENDS	<p>Friends are an important part of children's lives. Exploring friendship through picture books is an excellent way to support needed social skills. Friendships are a rich source of stories for children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Best Friends</u> by Steven Kellogg
WRITING ABOUT SCHOOL	<p>Children know about school. It's a major part of their lives. They all have school experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>We Share Everything</u> by Robert Munsch

	Writing about school is a natural topic.	
WRITING ABOUT SECRETS	For children, secrets are fun. Writing about secrets can bring out the creativity in kids. Dreaming up secrets allows their imaginations to free up and their writing to soar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Barn Dance</u> by Bill Martin Jr. • <u>The Wise Woman and Her Secret</u> by Eve Merriam • <u>The Secret Knowledge of Grownups</u> by David Wiesner
WRITING ABOUT MEMORIES	Everyone has memories. Memories (especially childhood memories) are rich resources for writer. Children can learn to tap into their memories (and the memories of parents and grandparents) for lots of wonderful writing ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Memory Box</u> • <u>Keepers</u> by Jeri Hanel Watts and Felicia Marshall • <u>The Hundred Penny Box</u> by Sharon Bell Mathis <i>*new penny</i> • <u>Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge</u> by Mem Fox • <u>When I Was Young In the Mountains</u> by Cynthia Rylant
WRITING ABOUT ADVENTURES	Children love adventures and tend to have great imaginations. Let their imaginations soar and allow them to write their own adventures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Weslandia</u> by Paul Fleishman

